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Grade 8  
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Second Place**

**Dr. King's Message**

Martin Luther King, Jr. worked for the brotherhood of man by speaking on behalf of the weak and the downtrodden. Through his words, Martin Luther King taught the value of nonviolent action to bring about social change.

Even though Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have A Dream" speech was made forty years ago, it still has meaning today. King's "dream" has never been fully realized. There is still much work to be done "to save the soul of America" and the world.

Martin Luther King, Jr. called upon each citizen to stand up for what is right. King asked everyone to treat others, as he or she would want to be treated. He wanted everyone to value his or her uniqueness but to also realize how much they are the same.

The United States still has problems with racial issues. There are new immigration concerns since the 9/11 attacks and fear of the terrorists within our country. This new problem had made it difficult for us to think that nonviolent action is going to make a difference in such a violent world, but we can see from 9/11 attacks that violence leads to hatred and mistrust and to more violence.

Dr. King believed that each of us had the power to make a difference. He felt that volunteerism and community service would show each individual and those around him how their efforts made their world a better place. If we take the time to help the less fortunate and forget about new clothes, new DVD'S new video games, we will make a

difference. If everyone worked together with a common purpose, Dr. King believed we could live together in harmony.

We should think of all the good in our lives. To have a loving family and a comfortable life is a blessing, but thousands of people in our country and in the world, are not so fortunate. Dr. King never wanted the less fortunate to be overlooked. There are many opportunities to help the poor during the holidays, but in the spirit of Martin Luther King's message, we must carry this spirit with us everyday.